



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Abraham Lincoln's bloody gloves from his assassination are artifacts of the month for April

Each month, a different major artifact from the recently acquired Taper Collection will be featured at the Lincoln Presidential Museum

SPRINGFIELD – The bloody gloves that were in President Lincoln's pocket the night he was assassinated are the artifacts of the month for April at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum (ALPLM), the latest in a series featuring key items from the Taper Collection recently acquired by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation.

“Wishing to shake hands with anyone who approached, and at formal receptions they numbered in the thousands, Lincoln usually carried two pairs of kid-leather gloves in his coat pockets. This pair from his left pocket on the night he and Mary attended a play at Ford's Theatre became stained with his blood after Booth's bullet struck the left back of his skull,” said ALPLM's Lincoln Curator James Cornelius. “And Booth was not done: Mary's silk hand fan was then stained by the dagger-drawn blood of the friend who shared their box. So began Mary's 17 years of widowhood, perhaps the most tragic public life in American history.”

The gloves will be removed from public display on April 30, and another key artifact from the Taper Collection will take its place.

The artifacts of the month are displayed in the central case in the Presidential Museum's Treasures Gallery and include interpretive text explaining their significance. These displays will also highlight the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation's Permanent Home Campaign. The \$27-million fundraising drive, established to ensure that the 1,500-item Louise and Barry Taper Collection remains together as a collection and is preserved in perpetuity for the benefit of the public, began in 2008 and continues through 2013.

The story of the April 2011 artifacts as told by the ALPLM's Lincoln Curator may be viewed at: [NEED LINK](#). A podcast may be accessed at [NEED LINK](#).

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation, in partnership with the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, offers monthly artifact sponsorships entitled "An Evening of Wine, a Nibble of Cheese, and A Hint of History." The private events, hosted by a Lincoln historian, highlight a featured artifact from the Taper Collection and include light hors d'oeuvres and wine for a select number of guests. For more information on how to become a sponsor or to donate to the Permanent Home Campaign, contact Phyllis Maynerich at (217) 557-6250 or pmaynerich@alplm.org. Event sponsorships are tax deductible as allowed by law.

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation supports the educational and cultural programming of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum; fosters Lincoln scholarship through the acquisition and publication of documentary materials relating to Lincoln and his era; and promotes a greater appreciation of history through exhibits, conferences, publications, online services, and other activities designed to promote historical literacy.

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